

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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SECRET
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9 MAY 1954

Chief of Station, []
LINCOLN

INFO: PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

KUQOWN

Offer of Guatemalan Land to Salvadoran Settlers

REF: (A) [] 1024
(B) [] 582

1. Thanks for bringing referenced item to our attention. We agree that this offer might impress people in your area in an undesirable way, especially if this offer is actually implemented and given further publicity.

2. We suggest that you counter it through any suitable outlet, approximately along the following lines: "Guatemala is offering land to Salvadorans because it is encountering increasing difficulties in getting Guatemalans to accept it: see the incident in Chiquimula where 5 men were killed and many injured in a quarrel over land distribution. The Communists who control the Guatemalan Department of Agriculture would like to play off the Salvadorans against the "natives". Salvadorans should think twice before making use of this offer: since it comes from a communist administration which is encountering mounting opposition and since the land in question has been taken away from other people, the question is how long the Salvadoran immigrants could enjoy their new homesteads. On the other hand, if the Arbenz-Communist regime should stay in power for any length of time, they would undoubtedly take away again the land now distributed, forcing the peasants into collective farms and state farms, as the communists have done in all countries where they came to power. Do Salvadoran campesinos want to repeat the bitter experiences of the peasants in Russia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and now also in China?" (You are, of course, free to adapt this brief outline to your local situation and to the requirements of whatever outlet you are using.)

3. We are advising Guatemala Station at the same time about this matter. Keep us informed about whatever action you may take and any further significant developments.

[]
JEROME G. DUNBAR

JCD/EFL/a
8 May 1954
Distribution:
2 - []
2 - WASH ✓
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